

LIBRARY

UTTOXETER
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1947

COUNCIL OFFICES,
NORTHGATE,
UTTOXETER.

AUGUST, 1948.

F. A. HARPER, UTTOXETER



UTTOXETER
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT


of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1947

COUNCIL OFFICES,
NORTHGATE,
UTTOXETER.

AUGUST, 1948.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b3020298x>

Uttoxeter Urban District Council
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1947.

TO THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE
UTTOXETER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Uttoxeter Urban District for the year 1947.

The office of Medical Officer of Health was held during the first quarter of the year by Dr. G. H. Herbert, whom I succeeded on 1st April, 1947. It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to Dr. Herbert for the kindness and helpfulness which he showed me as I took up my appointment. I also wish to thank my brother officials for their courtesy and co-operation throughout the year. I am indebted to your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector Mr. S. S. Proud, for certain particulars with reference to the Sanitary Circumstances of your area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The vital statistics for your District for the year 1947 compare favourably in some respects with those for 1946, but unfavourably in others. Thus while there were more births during 1947, 159 as compared with 145 in 1946, there were also more deaths, 99 compared with 76 in 1946. While the still birth rate of 33.3 in 1946 fell to 18.5 in 1947, the infantile mortality rate rose from 55.2 in 1946 to the unduly high figure of 62.9 in 1947.

A proportion of the increased number of deaths which occurred among the population of your District as a whole during 1947 may be attributed to the abnormally severe weather conditions which prevailed for a prolonged period at the beginning of that year. As regards the ten deaths of infants under one year of age, it may be noted that no less than nine of these deaths took place during the first month of life, and they may therefore be mainly attributed to factors operating before birth.

Such infant deaths as these are closely associated with the health of the expectant mother. They form that portion of the total number of deaths of infants about whose causes, for example, prematurity or congenital malformation, least is known and which are therefore the most difficult to prevent. These deaths in the first month, or neo-natal deaths, cannot in so far as the child itself is concerned, be related directly to social or environmental factors in the same way as can the deaths of infants between the end of the first month and the end of the first year of life. These deaths may rather be an index of the fact that the member of the family whose health is most likely to suffer under present day restrictions is the young mother of a family who will deny herself in favour of her children. Everything possible should be done at the present time to ease the lot of the young housewife. The green ration book is a step in this direction and an expectant mother should not hesitate to make use of this privilege. Times of stress

may arise during pregnancy and at these times domestic help in the home may be invaluable, and the service for the provision of these helps should be extended. Finally the expectant mother should make full use herself of all the dietary supplements which are available to her.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. C. S. CAMERON.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	..	..	..	..	3,351 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid 1947)	..	..	..	..	6,964
Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1947 according to the Rate Books	..	..	..	..	2,123
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	£36,653
Sum represented by the product of 1d. Rate	..	..	..	..	£141

The Urban District comprises a prosperous market town which serves a large agricultural countryside. There is in the District a good cattle market and the District also contains an agricultural implement factory, a modern biscuit factory, a large manufacturing dairy, a laundry, and a gas works. Although many families in the Uttoxeter Urban District were rehoused during 1947, overcrowding and the indifferent sanitary state of many dwellings continued to be an aspect of social conditions in the area, the solution of which will make a great contribution to the health and well being of the local population.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	71	82	153
Illegitimate	..	..	..	3	3	6
TOTAL				74	85	159

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population .. 22.8

Still Births.

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	—	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
TOTAL				3	—	3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 18.5

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population .. 0.43

Deaths.

				Males	Females	Total
				56	43	99
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			..			14.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes 1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	8	1	9
Illegitimate	..	..	..	1	—	1
TOTAL				9	1	10

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births 62.9

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. 58.8

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 166.7

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 15

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) Nil

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Males	Females	Total
Heart Diseases	..	..	..	17	12	29
Cancer	..	..	..	8	7	15
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	..			3	5	8
All other causes	..	..	..	6	1	7

CAUSE OF DEATH			Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	2	4	6
Bronchitis	..	..	4	2	6
Congenital Malform. : Birth Injury :					
Infant Diseases	..	..	5	—	5
Premature Birth	..	..	4	1	5
Pneumonia	..	..	2	3	5
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System			1	1	2
Other Violent Causes	..	..	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases	..	..	—	2	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis		..	1	—	1
Acute Infantile Encephalitis		..	1	—	1
Diabetes	..	..	—	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases		..	—	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum		..	—	1	1
Other Maternal causes	..	..	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accident	..	..	1	—	1
TOTAL			56	43	99

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Laboratory Facilities.—Laboratory facilities were provided as in previous years during the first nine months of 1947 by the Staffordshire County Council. As from 1st September, 1947, the County Bacteriological and Pathological Laboratory at Stafford was transferred to the Public Health Laboratory Service, which is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. Local medical practitioners continued to take advantage of the extensive facilities which are provided free of charge. During December the Director and Staff of the laboratory co-operated with this public health department in the investigation of a small outbreak of scarlet fever at a school in the Urban District. The Chemical Laboratory of the County Council reported from time to time on samples submitted by the public health department.

Ambulance Facilities.—A twenty-four hour ambulance service continued to be provided during the year by two

ambulances, both of which are garaged in Uttoxeter and which belong respectively to this Council and to the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. These two ambulances dealt with all types of cases other than cases of infectious disease which were removed to hospital during the year in ambulances provided by the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board.

Nursing in the Home.—An efficient Home Nursing Service was again available during the year. During the year the nursing staff was augmented so that there were two general nurses, one full time midwife and two part time midwives and health visitors.

HOSPITALS, TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Hospitals.—There are not any hospitals in the Urban District and the following arrangements obtained during the year.

Infectious Disease.—Cases of infectious disease which required hospitalisation were treated at the Wissage Isolation Hospital at Lichfield. This Isolation Hospital is one of those administered by the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospitals Board, of which this Council is a constituent authority.

General Medical and Surgical Cases.—General medical and surgical cases requiring institutional treatment went mainly to the Infirmaries at Derby, Stoke-on-Trent, Stafford, and Burton-on-Trent.

Maternity and Gynaecological Cases.—Maternity and gynaecological cases were mainly admitted to the Derbyshire Hospital for Women in Derby, the North Staffs Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent, and the Ashbourne Maternity Home.

Clinics.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.—The Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board for Tuberculosis provide a Tuberculosis Dispensary in Balance Street, Uttoxeter. Sessions are held each Thursday at 10.30 a.m. and the Dispensary is available to residents in your District.

Minor Ailments Clinic.—A Minor Ailments Clinic for school children is provided by the Staffordshire County Council. The clinic is held each Friday morning in the Congregational Sunday School, Carter Street, Uttoxeter.

Infant Welfare Clinic.—An infant welfare clinic is held each Friday afternoon in Uttoxeter and an increasing number of mothers from your district brought their children to this clinic during the year. This clinic is provided by the Welfare Authority for your area, the Staffordshire County Council.

Ante-Natal Clinic.—This clinic is also provided in Uttoxeter by the Staffordshire County Council. Sessions are held fortnightly on Friday afternoons and the clinic was attended during the year by a number of mothers from the Urban District.

Dental Clinic.—Dental advice and treatment is available to school children, expectant and nursing mothers and toddlers in this District at the Dental Clinic which is maintained in Uttoxeter by the Staffordshire County Council. Very valuable work continued to be done at this clinic throughout 1947.

Home and Domestic Help Service.—On 7th July, 1947, this Council accepted from the County Council delegation of powers to organise and maintain a Home and Domestic Help Service. The actual operation of this scheme was not commenced until the 30th October, 1947, and from that date until the end of the year a Domestic Help was provided in one instance. During this period two part time Helps were available on the register.

Further experience of the operation of this scheme has shown that while in most instances people are able to obtain the help of relatives or neighbours in the case of illness or confinement, there occur from time to time cases for whom it would be extremely difficult to make adequate provision in the absence of some such scheme as this.

It has been found that the average time a Help requires to spend daily on each case is rarely more than six hours, and

in fact is more usually four hours. This implies that under present conditions a full time Help is hardly necessary and that what is required can best be accomplished by having on the Register several part time Helps, one or more of whom will be available at any given time. This scheme will be the subject of a further report next year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of household refuse was dealt with in a satisfactory manner during the year. As regards disposal, use continued to be made of the Cockstubbles site belonging to this Council where a system of controlled tipping was employed. Owing to the proximity of this tip to the biscuit factory and to residential property, including pre-fabricated bungalows, meticulous attention requires to be paid to the day to day control of this tip if nuisance is not to arise. At the height of the very dry summer infestation by crickets as in similar tips in other parts of the country called for special attention.

Water Supply.

The water supply to your District during 1947 continued to be of satisfactory quality. Samples of water from all sources were submitted for analysis twice during the year and both the bacteriological and chemical reports were satisfactory in each instance.

In the higher parts of the District there was a shortage of supply during the year. The Council have prepared a comprehensive scheme of improvement and enlargement of their water supply undertakings.

The water supply of your District has not been noted to have any serious plumbo-solvent action and no action was necessary as regards contamination of water supplies.

In your District 2,105 houses are supplied with water directly from public water mains and the number of the local population so supplied comprises some 6,760 persons.

There are a certain number of houses supplied by means of outside taps, but as many of these as possible are now being placed inside the dwellings. There are not any dwellings supplied by means of standpipes and none of the local population is so supplied. Forty-four houses in the Urban District have their own private water supply.

Water Analysis.

The following are reports on samples taken on 2nd June from Pump-well, Crumpwood Waterworks.

Chemical Analysis.

	Parts per 100,000	
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F.	..	21.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	..	Nil
Albuminoid	..	0.0064
Nitric Nitrogen	..	Trace
Chlorine	..	0.4
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	..	0.31
Oxygen absorbed in 3 mins at 80°F.	..	0.28
Appearance	Trace of suspended matter	
Injurious Metallic Contamination	..	None
pH Value	..	7.6
Hardness before Boiling	..	11.6°
Hardness after Boiling	..	3.4°
Temporary Hardness	..	8.2°

This water is chemically satisfactory, and if passed bacteriologically may be considered suitable for drinking.

Bacteriological Report.

Count.

On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.	..	4 colonies per ml
On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20-22°C.	..	17 colonies per ml

Coli Aerogenes Content (presumptive coli)

After 48 hours' incubation at 37°C. Nil per 100 ml

Other Micro-Organism Present.

Remarks.

The Ministry of Health Report No. 71 suggests that when a public water supply contains not more than two presumptive coli per 100 ml the sample may be regarded as reasonably satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Drainage and sewerage was again throughout 1947 reasonably satisfactory in your District. In order to prevent ditch pollution additional storm water tanks are necessary and this matter is receiving active consideration.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The occupiers of the various factories in this District were again during the year at present under review most co-operative as regards their duties under the Sections of the Factories Act, 1937, which it is the responsibility of this Council to enforce.

A total of twenty-eight inspections were made as regards factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Act are enforced by this Authority, while seventeen inspections were made of factories in respect of which Section 7 only of the Act falls to be enforced by this Authority. In no instance was an occupier prosecuted during the year, but two written notices were served. Defects with reference to Section 1 of the Act, want of cleanliness, were found and remedied in two instances. As regards Section 3, unreasonable temperature, three defects were found and remedied. One instance of ineffective drainage of floors, Section 6, was found, and under Section 7 also one defect was found. Neither of these two latter defects have as yet been remedied.

HOUSING.

Sixty-seven new houses or dwellings were completed by this Authority during 1947. In addition conversions were carried out in the case of nine properties. Completion of the work at St. Mary's Mount provided accommodation for aged persons, sufficient for twelve single persons and four married couples.

At the end of 1947 twenty-one houses and four bungalows were in course of erection.

The Council have at present a waiting list of 536 persons or families requiring houses.

The Balance Hill Site, which comprises 26.71 acres, remains undeveloped, and there is still accommodation for more houses on the Weaver Lodge and Bentley House Estates.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Fresh and frozen meat was inspected during the year at the central slaughterhouse in your District. Inspection and supervision was also carried out in relation to other foodstuffs and condemnation certificates issued for all foodstuffs considered unfit for human consumption.

During the year the attention of all vendors of ice cream was drawn to the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations of 1947. A register of ice cream manufacturers in your District is maintained and periodic inspection of their premises was carried out. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The notifications of Infectious Disease received during the year were as follows.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE					Number of Cases	
Measles	89
Scarlet Fever	12
Erysipelas	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Cerebrospinal Fever	1
TOTAL ..						106

In addition one non-civilian case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

Of these cases, six cases of Scarlet Fever and one case of Cerebrospinal Fever was admitted to hospital.

The non-civilian case of Diphtheria was also admitted to hospital.

Analysis of Total Cases Notified According to Age Groups.

DISEASE	AGE PERIOD IN YEARS.										
	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45 years and over
											TOTAL
Measles	2	7	6	10	11	51	2				89
Scarlet Fever			1			1	7	2	1		12
Erysipelas										1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia										1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever									1		1
TOTAL	2	7	7	10	11	52	9	2	2	2	106
Diphtheria—Non-Civilian ... ..									. 1		1

POLIOMYELITIS AND POLIOENCEPHALITIS.

During the epidemic of the above conditions which occurred in this country during 1947, cases occurred in the Uttoxeter Rural District and in adjacent parts of the administrative county. There were not any notifications however received with respect to either of these diseases in the Uttoxeter Urban District.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During 1947 the Uttoxeter Urban District Council co-operated with the Staffordshire County Council in its campaign to secure the immunisation of as many children as possible against Diphtheria. Arrangements were made for advertisements in the Press and several trailer films were shown at the local cinemas by courtesy of the management of the Elite Cinema, Uttoxeter.

There is no doubt that the great majority of parents in your District favour this form of inoculation. Active health education, however, requires to be continuously carried on by all concerned with this work in order to ensure that a maximum number of children are immunised as soon as they reach a suitable age.

Arrangements existed throughout the year whereby it was possible for parents to have their children immunised free of charge either by their own family doctor or at the Welfare Centre in Uttoxeter. During the last quarter of the year special immunising sessions were held at the various schools in Uttoxeter while other children of school age were immunised at the school clinic. As in previous years this work benefited by the warm support of this Council.

The number of children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Uttoxeter Urban District during 1947 was as follows :

Children of less than five years of age	..	..	130
Children aged five to fourteen years	..	..	23
			<hr/>
	TOTAL	..	153
			<hr/>

The following children aged five to fourteen years received a single reinforcing injection—129.

New Cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and four cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year.

Deaths.

There were six deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one death from other forms of Tuberculosis.

The age and sex distribution of these new cases and deaths were as shown below.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				
	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ..					
1 year ..			1	1	2
5 years ..				2	2
15 years ..					
25 years ..		1			1
35 years ..	1				1
45 years ..					
55 years ..	1				1
65 years ..					
TOTAL ..	2	1	1	3	7
DEATHS					
Under 1 year ..					
1 year ..			1		1
5 years ..					
15 years ..					
25 years ..	1	1			2
35 years ..		1			1
45 years ..	1	2			3
55 years ..					
65 years ..					
TOTALS ..	2	4	1		7
Death Rate from Tuberculosis ..					1.00
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..					0.86
Death Rate from other forms of Tuberculosis ..					0.14

